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THREE DEAD YESTERDAY

Board Takes Vigorous Action.

BURNS THREE BUILDINGS

The Health Authorities Decide to Condemn Infected Portions of Chinatown.

THE DEATH LIST.

Ah Pow, male Chinese, 24 years old; died of bubonic plague yesterday morning at 327½ Nuuanu street; cremated without having postmortem examination. This death occurred upstairs next door to the room where the Chinese who died in front of the Chinese hospital lay sick.

Quong You Quan, male Chinese, aged 25 years; died on King street near River street on premises occupied by Sam Kee; died yesterday forenoon; postmortem examination by Dr. Hoffmann showed death caused by bubonic plague.

Kou Wai, male Chinese, about 40 years old; visited Saturday evening by Drs. Pratt and Scaparoni at a shack behind what is called the Kobiyashi Hotel. The Chinaman had been ailing since Friday. Died at Chinese Hospital at 8 o'clock last evening. Pronounced bubonic victim. Case reported by Will Crawford.

The first death as given above, was decided by the Board of Health yesterday morning as sufficient cause for the work of purifying Chinatown by fire to begin immediately. The young Chinaman was an employee at Bow Wai Kee's tailor shop at number 327½ Nuuanu street opposite Pauahi and next door to number 327½ where a death indirectly occurred on Wednesday last. The sick man was first seen on Saturday night and reported to the Board of Health. A physician was at once sent to the house and the case was pronounced "suspicious." Yesterday morning it was decided to remove the man to the Kakaako pest hospital, but before this could be done the man was dead, and pronounced as a "bubonic death" by Drs. Garvin, Bowman and Carmichael. On Saturday morning the man was out on the street and bought some rice and other food stuffs.

The Board Takes Action.

President Cooper immediately called up his colleagues of the Board of Health, and the condemnation of the Nuuanu street property where the deaths occurred was ordered forthwith. President Cooper at once repaired to Nuuanu street in company with Drs. Wood and Day and Geo. W. Smith, of the Board, Chief Hunt of the Fire Department, Marshal Brown, Deputy Marshal Chillingworth, Hon. L. A. Thurston, Architect Ripley of the Sanitary Committee, Drs. Pratt, Herbert and Burgess.

The property in which the two deaths occurred, belongs to the estate of Silveira of San Francisco, Grinbaum & Co. of this city being the agents. Mr. Bolte was telephoned for, and informed of the condemnation proceedings. He acquiesced at once, and the Chinese tenants from number 329 to 433 inclusive on Nuuanu street, covering a frontage of 137 feet were ordered to vacate the premises at once, taking with them their store goods and family utensils.

Five large drays backed up to the curbing and the work of removal and demolition commenced. Extra military guards were thrown about the infected premises to prevent either persons or goods being sent away. The stores included in the condemnation order, beginning at number 329½, next to Ahlo's premises, were: Wing Kol Seong, tailor; Japanese barber shop; Wing Tai & Co., shoe store; Hin Cheong & Co., shoe store; Bow Wai Kee, merchant tailor, infected house; Young Wo, dress maker, infected premises; You Wai; Sing Chow, tailor; Fook Tai, tailor; Wing Kee, tailor; Chun Hoy, watchmaker; Pal Kee, tailor; Severin's old photograph gallery, over Tai Kee's store. There were nearly 85 Chinese and Japanese men, women and children living in and behind the stores; the sleeping quarters numbering thirty-six rooms and mostly directly over the places of business.

The Order For Exodus.

When President Cooper's order to vacate was interpreted to the tenants, a cry of dismay and a look of consternation spread through the infected section. There was no time to be lost, however, and the orders were positive-

ly given that they pack up their belongings without delay.

Messrs. Ripley, Onderkirk and Wilhelm were a committee of those appointed by President Cooper to appraise the buildings and contents, and make a report thereon as soon as practicable. These gentlemen made a very careful inspection of the entire premises inside and out, but what estimates were agreed upon have not been made public.

Hon. L. A. Thurston was sent for by President Cooper and asked to volunteer to take charge of the barracks to be prepared at the Kakaako Rifle Range to quarantine the people of the condemned section. Mr. Thurston at once proceeded to make the necessary preparations to receive them. He secured the assistance of Mr. J. L. McComb, C. B. Ripley, Jno. A. McLaren, Alex. Robertson and Mr. Pratt who volunteered for the purpose. The Rifle Range proved entirely too small and some of the buildings in the kerosene warehouse were appropriated, cleaned out, and mattresses laid on the floor. Cooking apparatus and blankets were provided. At about 4 o'clock in the afternoon there were transferred forty-two Chinese men and one woman; sixteen Japanese men, ten women and seven children; one Hawaiian man, four women and a boy, making eighty-two in all.

At 12 o'clock the occupants began packing and piling up their goods on the sidewalks and into the drays, working fast and nervously and casting many longing glances at many of the trumpery ornaments, which the inspectors refused to allow to be put into their belongings. Blots of cloth, big boxes of shoes, hundreds of boxes of cigars and every description of general merchandise, were piled into the drays and by 1:30 p. m. the procession of loaded wagons started for Kakaako, the Chinamen meekly submitting to the carrying away of their possessions. At number 327½ and number 327½, the Chinese were prohibited from removing anything whatever.

President Cooper personally supervised the entire removal of goods, and he had Colonel Jones assume charge of the placing of new sentinels entirely around the entire section. After the first dray loads were removed it was deemed that quicker action be taken. In order the fire might be begun and finished entirely during the day and before night set in. Then commenced a scene of indescribable confusion. The tenants ran hither and thither, gesticulating, shouting, nervously tugging at boxes too heavy for easy carriage, some picking up a small fan or a plate and running down Pauahi street to deposit their burdens, making three trips where one would have sufficed. Frow narrow alleyways little Japanese with their wits lost in the excitement rushed out of alleyways, with overweighted satchels, tin pails, balancing lamps, jostling one another, and working themselves into a feverish frenzy. Hawaiians came forth from the inner regions of the block, carrying guitars, poi bowls and bundles of clothing. For a while Nuuanu street presented a scene of confusion and uproar which put a humorous phase upon the seriousness of the occasion; for the Board had decided that the die should be cast and a complete job made in this first purification of Chinatown by fire. Mr. Bolte, for Grinbaum & Co., said he agreed entirely with the Board of Health that all the buildings should be entirely destroyed, stating however, that he would have to make a claim on behalf of Silveira, for whatever the owner was legally entitled to. He was informed that was a matter which would be settled later. The buildings were mostly under lease to L. Ahlo, who made no objection to their destruction.

Chief Hunt of the Fire Department was early on the scene, and by 2 o'clock nearly all the available fire apparatus was stationed around the four sides of the square, there being put into service, three engines, three hose wagons, and one chemical, the old hook and ladder truck was also placed in commission for the occasion. Hose lengths were stretched along Nuuanu street, and to the rear of the doomed buildings from Hotel, Fort and Beretania streets through the alleyways. At this juncture it was decided that even the occupants of the buildings on each side of the condemned structures would have to move out as there was considerable danger of the fire spreading to those structures. These hitherto serene Celestials became almost panic-stricken in their desire to remove their goods to places of safety, and this new work was accomplished in a half hour.

Police ropes had been stretched across all the street approaches to Nuuanu street, against which many hundreds were gathered craning their necks to witness the first official fire during the present crisis. The military guards were hard pressed, but officers were present to keep a careful watch during the quarantine and Colonel Jones was on the ground to give the matter personal supervision. Despite the seemingly harsh measures which were forced by circumstances upon the Board of Health to inflict,

yet the tenants were obedient in nearly all cases in obeying the orders and wishes of the various members of the Board. While inspecting the premises of Pal Kee, Dr. Wood made a visit to Severin's photograph parlors and discovered on the floor of the receiving room, a dead rat which was at once sent to Dr. Hoffman for examination. This discovery was sufficient for the Board to decide that the photograph gallery was infected as well, and nothing was allowed to be taken out except the camera, although the contents were very valuable.

Work of Destruction Begins.

At 2 o'clock the first work of destruction began by the removal of a house-connecting bridge between the Silveira and Ahlo premises. The firemen cut this connecting link away and then several cans of kerosene oil were poured into the upstairs rooms of Nos. 325, 326 and 327, and all was ready for the match.

President Cooper sent word to Chief Hunt at 3:20 p. m. that everything was up to the Fire Department. By a curious coincidence Chief Hunt at 3:27 p. m. shouted to the foreman, who was upstairs in the premises numbered 327, to start the fire. The match was applied, and within a few seconds the room was entirely ablaze. Within two minutes the flames were leaping through the tinderwood roof, from which the corrugated iron roofing had already been removed. The fire spread quickly toward both ends of the doomed structure, and began eating its way toward the rear. The scene on Nuuanu street was fine. Two streams of water were played on the buildings across the street and onto the structures adjoining the infected premises. The flames quickly destroyed the stores in the central part, and then began working fast toward the rear. Behind No. 325 was a large two-story concrete structure owned by L. Ahlo, on the ground floor of which was stored a very valuable lot of sake just received by him, and recently fumigated. The upper story was used as a dwelling-place by Japanese Yoshiwara women. A stream of water was kept on this building from the beginning, but its closeness to the burning structure in front soon brought it under the control of the fire and flames and smoke burst from the windows and beneath the eaves. This was a building which the Board desired to save, if possible, as it and its contents was worth more than all the structures facing on Nuuanu street. A second stream of water was brought to play on the burning structure, but within an hour the roof fell in, carrying in part of the wall. Chunks of the wall composition fell upon the balcony, and, bounding, several of the firemen had narrow escapes from being hit. One of the firemen was struck upon the forehead and severely injured. In carrying hose through the narrow passageways, two firemen dodged a heavy piece of cornice just in time. Had either man been hit he would have been badly injured if not killed.

Some of the shacks extended almost back to Mr. Damon's Chinese school, and in allowing these to burn without the fire spreading to adjoining property the firemen had their hands full. Sparks flying from the blazing mass were carried by the south breeze, to the Mossman house on Beretania street, setting fire to the roof; also houses in the rear of the Orpheum theater caught fire in the same manner, but in each case bucket brigades quenched these embryo fires.

At one time it was thought the Ahlo premises were likely to be included in the conflagration, but this was prevented by concentrating three streams on the exposed buildings. In many respects the work of the Fire Department was a splendid achievement in confining the fire to the limits as mapped out by the Board of Health. They had the fire under control nearly the entire time the buildings were ablaze. Chief Hunt working in amongst his men and exposing himself in many dangerous alleyways. In taking a horse from a stable in Ahlo's premises, a corporal of the regiment was kicked by the animal in the mouth, knocking his cigar away and cutting a severe gash in his under-lip. The corporal coolly picked up his cigar from the ground and resumed his beat.

The determination of the Board to take such rigid measures arose from the discussion of the subject at a meeting of the Board of Health Saturday night, when it was decided that certain parts of Chinatown must go, destruction by fire being the only means by which the district could be purified and cleansed of its saturated filthiness. The Board is evidently prepared to keep up vigorous measures in stamping out the plague, and as soon as barracks can be erected for them the denizens of other sections of the quarantined district will be moved to the new quarantine and their former dwelling-houses and places of business will be burned to the ground.

Three Deaths Yesterday.

The first death by bubonic plague reported at the Board of Health, yesterday morning, was that of Ah Pow, on Nuuanu street. Ah Pow lived in an upstairs room, which was almost next to that of the Chinese who died a few days ago. In a room, sandwiched in between the two infected rooms, three Chinamen have been sleeping, a reporter ascertaining that they had slept there Friday night. However, all are now in quarantine at Kakaako.

The second death was that of Quong You Quan, a young Chinaman, who died on King street near River in a building, where he was employed by Sam Kee. The body was brought to the morgue held by Dr. Hoffmann, who pronounced the death caused by bubonic plague. The body was sent to the crematory.

The third case was that of Kou Wai, a Chinese who was reported Saturday evening by William Crawford. The shack in which the man lived was directly in the backyard of the Kobiyashi Hotel, on the corner of Pauahi and Smith streets. Drs. Pratt and Scaparoni made the examination. He had

(Continued on Page 19.)

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